

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ACDA-10

SCCT-01 DHA-02 /091 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7298

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2389

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: APRIL 19 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORTING ON LEBANON

1. SYRIAN MEDIA CONTINUED DETAILED COVERAGE OF EFFORTS
TO PROMOTE OBSERVANCE OF CEASEFIRE AND CONTINUE PROGRESS
ON POLITICAL TRACK. AL-BAATH HEADLINED: "BEIRUT WITNESSES
INTENSIFIED POLITICAL ACTIVITY FOR ELECTION OF NEW
PRESIDENT. SUPREME MILITARY COMMITTEE DECIDES TO CON-
SOLIDATE CEASEFIRE. SYRIAN INITIATIVE AND DAMASCUS
ACCORD FORM CORE OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN LEBANON."
AL-BAATH NOTED THAT CONSULTATIONS CONTINUING AMONG
LEBANESE POLITICAL FACTIONS TO DECIDE UPON
"FORTHCOMING STEPS DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN ORDER IN AFTERMATH
OF DAMASCUS ACCORD AND STEPS FOR ELECTING NEW
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PRESIDENT." KARAME, FRANGIE, PATRIARCH KHREISH,

CHAMOUN AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN CONTACTS. ACCORDING TO PRESS, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT WILL BE FORWARDED TO PRIME MINISTRY AND SPEAKER AS'AD TODAY. AL-BAATH REPORTED THAT SUPREME MILITARY COMMITTEE MET LAST NIGHT IN PRESENCE OF KARAME, SYRIAN COLONELS ALI MADANI AND MUHAMMAD AL-KHULI AND OTHERS TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF CEASEFIRE.

2. TISHRIIN CITED DISPATCHES FROM Wafa AND UPI THAT ARAFAT HAD MET WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON TO "INFORM" AMB. OF INCREASE IN NUMBER OF SIXTH FLEET SHIPS NEAR LEBANESE COAST. DURING MEETING AMBASSADOR HANDED ARAFAT MESSAGE FROM SOVIET LEADERS CONCERNING PRESENT SITUATION IN LEBANON. PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT HASAN AJAJ, DIRECTOR OF SAIQA POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, EXPLAINED TO AFRICAN DELEGATION VISITING DAMASCUS LEBANESE SITUATION AND SAIQA EFFORTS TO SUPPORT SYRIAN INITIATIVE DESPITE "ANGER OF FORCES CONNECTED WITH AMERICAN AND ZIONIST SCHEMES, PARTICULARLY EGYPTIAN REGIME."

3. AL-BAATH COLUMNIST ASSERTED THAT SYRIAN INITIATIVE IN LEBANON WOULD TRIUMPH OVER ATTEMPTS BY SOME TO UNDERMINE SYRIAN MEDIATION THERE. COLUMNIST CLAIMED TO SEE HOPE IN LEBANESE CRISIS AND LISTED AS EVIDENCE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT, SYRO-PALESTINIAN ACCORD AND CURRENT INTEREST AMONG LEBANESE IN ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT.

4. TISHRIIN EDITORIAL SHARPLY ATTACKED MISSION OF AMB. BROWN IN LEBANON. UNDER CAPTION, "WAY TO ABORT AMERICAN ROLE," TISHRIIN CRITICIZED "IMPERIALIST-ZIONIST SCHEME DIRECTED AGAINST ARAB AREA, IN WHICH AMERICAN ROLE CLEARLY AIMED AT ABORTING ARAB STRATEGY" TO RECOVER OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. TISHRIIN ADDED, "THE SYRO-PALESTINIAN STATEMENT CONCENTRATED ON REJECTING AMERICAN SETTLEMENTS AND SCHEMES IN LEBANON, AND THIS REJECTION MEANS REJECTING MISSION OF PRES. FORD'S ENVOY TO THE ARA. INDEED, ARAB MASSES IN LEBANON UNDERSTAND THAT AMERICAN ENVOY ONLY BRINGS WITH HIM SUSPICIOUS PROJECTS OBSTRUCTING UNCLASSIFIED

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THEIR PROGRESS. IN 1958 EVENTS, AMERICANS CREATED VACUUM OF POWER THEORY WHICH THEY USED TO JUSTIFY AMERICAN INTERFERENCE IN LEBANON. ROBERT MURPHY ANNOUNCED HE HAD COME TO MEET WITH LEBANESE LEADERS IN ORDER TO STUDY SITUATION BUT IN FACT HE WAS TRYING TO DICTATE TERMS FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION GAME. TODAY, HISTORY IS REPEATING ITSELF. AMERICA IS PLAYING SAME GAME, WHICH PROVES THAT U.S. HAS NOT

BENEFITED FROM ITS DEFEATS IN MANY AREAS OF THE WORLD.
DEAN BROWN CAME TO LEBANON GARBED AS LAMB OF PEACE BUT IN
REALITY HE HAD MORE SUSPICIOUS ROLE ENTRUSTED TO HIM, I.E.,
CONSTRICTING REVOLUTIONARY SYRIA AND ABORTING ITS ARAB
ROLE. INDEED, WASHINGTON NOW PLAYING DOUBLE GAME --
ON ONE HAND TRYING TO CAMOUFLAGE REALITY OF
AMERICAN ROLE, AND ON OTHER MOBILIZING ALL FORCES TO
UNDERMINE SYRIAN ROLE. MORE THAN ONCE SYRIA HAS CALLED
ATTENTION TO NATURE AND DIMENSIONS OF THIS PLOT, AND
POINTED OUT WAYS TO COUNTER IT. FIRST STEP ON THIS
ROAD SHOULD BE COHESION BETWEEN REVOLUTIONARY SYRIA
AND ALL NATIONALIST FORCES WITHIN ME. EXACTLY AS
MURPHY MET FAILURE, BROWN WILL MEET SIMILAR FAILURE
NO MATTER HOW HARD IMPERIALIST AND ZIONIST PROPAGANDA
MACHINES TRY TO FALSIFY FACTS."

5. PRESS REPORTED THAT COS HIKMAT SHIHABI HAD MET WITH
KING HUSSEIN APRIL 18 IN AMMAN IN ORDER TO DELIVER
MESSAGE FROM ASAD. IT DID NOT SPECIFICALLY LINK SHIHABI
MISSION WITH LEBANESE DEVELOPMENTS.
MURPHY

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